



# Compliance TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE HEALTH CARE COMPLIANCE ASSOCIATION

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Learning from a  
diverse clinical  
background

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an interview with  
**Lori Strauss**



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by Kelly M. Willenberg, DBA, RN, CCRP, CHRC, CHC

# Participating in ONS Capitol Hill Days

*Kelly M. Willenberg (Kelly@kellywillenberg.com) is President and CEO of Kelly Willenberg, LLC in Chesnee, SC.*

I had the distinct honor of being nominated and selected for the Oncology Nursing Society's (ONS) Capitol Hill Days in Washington, DC this past September. A delegation of nearly 100 nurses converged upon the Capitol for two days of advocacy, education, and congressional meetings.



Willenberg

Bringing research to the forefront for the oncology nurses there, I wanted to provide an understanding of how all oncology nurses have to value their role in compliance. Surprisingly, some of the nurses in attendance felt they were not involved in clinical trials.

By the end of the two days, we found common ground in words like "clinical trial" and "research protocol." I found people asking many questions about compliance!

Why are there questions about how research and nursing clinical care intersect? Nurses in all types of clinical departments need to know what research compliance is. Many expressed that they are not ever provided any education on clinical trial compliance at their hospital if they are in a clinical unit. Fielding questions and creating a positive perception of research compliance became my goal. Recognizing that clinical trial patients are out there and that the compliance risks

are enormous, some nurses left Washington with healthcare research compliance on their minds.

I found I had an ability to sway discussion, impressing upon policy experts that a participant in a research trial may have financial toxicity or an increase in their cost of care due to their insurance denying coverage. Telling a government official that an oncology nurse can empower a patient who participates in a trial, I was able to deliver an appreciation of "research." Realizing that a nurse who fails to know what is in an informed consent form or a protocol can lead to non-compliance issues, nurses across the country had something to think about when providing care to a research-enrolled patient.

Being "inside the Beltway" for a few days gave me an appreciation for how interpretation of the Clinical Trial Policy or HIPAA, for example, is different to a government official than for one of us who works in compliance. Discussion on the opioid epidemic, palliative care, and the cost of drugs was powerful. I learned that describing research compliance as a response can be different based on perception and roles. As an activist for research compliance, I hope there are nurses across the country who help to make a research study better by the knowledge they gained at the ONS Capitol Hill Days! Thank you ONS for the opportunity. 📍